

Chapter 2301

Looking at the situation, it did not seem like there was a way to stop it anymore.

Samson looked at Jack with a panicked expression, "White, are you crazy? If you fight him on your own, you'll be killed!"

Jack shook his head slightly, ignoring everything that was said. Zamian laughed loudly as he pointed at Jack, "You're crazy! You really don't know your place. Rufus, this brat is challenging you, so you'd better not spare him any mercy. You have to show him what it means to challenge you!"

Rufus acted like he was ignoring Zamian's words, but those words successfully made Rufus' anger toward Jack, peaked. To be challenged by an insignificant brat like that, if Rufus did not properly teach Jack a lesson, it would mean that his skills were not good enough.

With that in mind, he ignored everything else as he launched himself forward, sword in hand. He rushed at Jack, and Jack smiled lightly, not even turning around as he said, "The rest of you retreat far away!"

Everyone else reacted immediately when they heard Jack. Even though everyone was dubious of Jack, the battle would definitely be intense. It would not do for them to be caught up within it.

So, when Jack shouted out, they scattered. In a flash, the center was left with only Jack and Rufus, who was rushing toward him.

The meter-long blade in Rufus' hand radiated with coldness. Wherever he went turned cold to the limits. Even the blood-red soil on the ground was covered with a layer of white.

Despite the rest of them distancing themselves, they still managed to feel the intense coldness that radiated from Rufus' body. That chill was even cold enough to stop the flow of true energy.

Jack raised his eyebrow, not expecting Rufus to have that up his sleeves. Jack retreated a few steps, maintaining a certain amount of distance from Rufus.

The Corpse Pavilion's disciples were all shouting Rufus' name, cheering for him. Naturally, Rufus did not need that at all.

Zamian loudly declared, "Rufus is amazing. He's already elementary Earth level skills, and is already proficient!"

"Even Benjamin from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion can only fight to a draw against Rufus!"

Benjamin was the second place disciple from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion in the Secret Place for Resources, and was one of the five who arrived at the sixth stage!

Of course, Zamian's actions were all just boasting, but Byron and the others had a sour look on their faces. They did not expect Rufus to have trained in Earth level skills.

The rest of them were not even close to that level. After all, skills of that level needed an extremely high level of comprehension, as well as a certain level of strength.

After all, without being at a certain level, it would be impossible to even comprehend the intricacies of an Earth level martial skill. Only those talented geniuses who were at the level of defeating practically every other disciple could learn them.

Byron let out a long breath, being forced to admit that his talent was lower than Rufus. He was only at the level of red martial skills, they were far too different!

Furthermore, the fact that Rufus was not only training but was already proficient was what caused Byron and the others to be in disbelief.

This was something regular disciples could never hope to do. Hayden and the others had a bitter smile on their faces as they shook their heads silently, already mourning Jack in their hearts.

Chapter 2302

Jack was absolutely no match for Rufus! Earlier, Zamian's boasts had naturally been heard by Jack as well. Jack lightly smiled, Earth level elementary skills?

It might be something unattainable for those present, but it was nothing to Jack!

Thirty-five Soul Swords gathered inside the black sword. A radiant black glow came from the blade! As Rufus' sword was swinging down thunderously, Jack launched his attack too!

Everyone heard an incredibly loud bang, Soul Frost and Destroying the Void clashed together viciously. The dark light suddenly enveloped the cold blue light.

The two of them clashed mid-air, and in just a moment, cracking sounds could be heard.

The cold blue light had been shattered into pieces of snow. They were blown away by the wind as they fell to the ground. Jack's Destroying the Void did not lose a beat. After destroying the Soul Frost, it slashed right at Rufus.

From the start, Rufus had never even thought that he would lose to the masked brat in front of him. He had thought that there was no way his Soul Frost could have been blocked.

The brat would have been turned to ice, and Rufus would only have to send out a kick to shatter the brat's body into pieces.

Yet, what he had expected did not happen. Soul Frost was actually broken by the brat's technique. Not only that, the technique was still hurling toward him.

At that moment, Rufus was spent and did not have the strength anymore to block Destroying the Void. Nonetheless, he was still a chosen disciple of the Corpse Pavilion, so he had plenty of experience in combat.

Since he knew he could not block that technique, he would do his best to ensure that his injuries were kept to a minimum. He activated his true energy and quickly fled to the side.

However, Destroying the Void had been less than a meter away from Rufus, so there had been no way for Rufus to completely avoid it. With a piercing sound, the technique found its way through Rufus' left shoulder.

Everyone widened their eyes as they looked over. They did not see a drop of blood, but Rufus' face looked like he had lost all his blood. It was completely pale as he shouted, "Ah! What the hell is this!"

The pain coming from the soul was not something a regular person could withstand. Rufus felt like tens of thousands of ants were biting at the spot that was pierced, and the pain continued to intensify.

The technique Jack had used not only pierced his shoulder but was also destroying his soul. Rufus used the true energy of his whole body in an attempt to stop Destroying the Void from rotting his soul.

However, that power was incredibly strange. Even with Rufus trying to suppress it with all his might, it merely slowed it down. He was still in so much pain that his entire body trembled!

With a stumble, he started to fall from the air, landing violently on the ground. Everyone looked at the sight in disbelief.

Rufus' Soul Frost had looked so incredibly strong. Everyone had felt its power, but White' technique seemed to have a mysterious power. None of them felt any intense energy fluctuations at all.

However, it actually had such a big impact. It destroyed an elementary Earth level skill, and even injured Rufus!

Rufus had basically lost in just one move.

"How is this possible!" Hayden's voice was trembling slightly.

He did not dare to believe what he witnessed before him. There was no one there who did not know of Rufus' skill as a disciple who was second only to Lennon.

Chapter 2303

Someone like that had still proven to be no match for White! Who was White? Why have they never heard of him before?

Samson let out a sigh of relief, "No wonder he was able to save us. I thought it was just a coincidence, but he really is that skilled!"

At that moment, Isaiah slowly reacted. His lips trembled slightly, not knowing what to say. Byron's eyes were wide, looking at Jack floating in the air with a look of disbelief.

Zamian looked like he had just stepped on a needle, his mouth was widened, but not a single word came out! All of the disciples from the Corpse Pavilion were gaping similarly, not able to utter a single word!

The shock of what they had witnessed had been far too much for them. They would never in a thousand years have expected that Rufus, who had never been defeated, to have lost at the hands of an anonymous brat.

Jack raised an eyebrow as he set his cold gaze on Zamian. Zamian shuddered at the gaze, and he felt a chill on his back. It was as if he would be killed by Jack at the next moment.

He could not help but take two steps back, and at that precise moment, Rufus' trembling voice could be heard, "Why haven't you helped me up!"

Hearing that, the Corpse Pavilion disciples broke out of their stupor and rushed out, chaotically helping Rufus up.

Rufus' entire body was trembling from the pain. His left hand clutched where he was pierced. Even his breath was erratic. The whole scene felt strange.

Rufus did not have any external injury at all, but he seemed to be in so much pain that he was practically dying. At that moment, everyone realized that Rufus did not suffer a physical injury, but one to the soul.

The pain of the soul was something incomparable to any physical pain. It was much more painful and much harder to cure. That was something everyone knew. Thinking about that, everyone started to look at Jack with a different eye.

Byron looked over to Hayden and uttered, "Who is he?!"

That was the biggest question in his heart. Who was that man? Why was that man so strong? How did that man use soul attacks?

Hayden shook his head, wanting the answer even more than Byron. Yet, he was devoid of any. Samson and Isaiah were staring at Jack with widened eyes as if he was a monster.

Rufus used some time to suppress the pain in his soul. At that moment, his face was incredibly pale, akin to a vampire. "I wondered who it was! So it's

Far

As Rufus said that, he glared venomously at Jack.

“What? This person is Jack?!”

Samson’s voice increased by several decibels. His mouth trembled like crazy as his eyes brimmed with excitement and disbelief.

Isaiah widened his eyes even more. His guess had been right, this man really was Jack. He had thought he was assuming too much, that there were no such coincidences in the world. It seemed like coincidences happened for a reason!

He let out a long sigh as he said with a strange expression, “We seemed to have been making a lot of commentary about Jack earlier.”

Chapter 2304

He was suddenly filled with immense regret for everything he had said earlier. He had no idea that the main character had been beside him all along, so his evaluations had held nothing back.

Isaiah’s words had reminded Hayden and Samson as well. Their faces burned red as they felt intense regret. They should have kept their mouths shut!

Byron looked at Jack with a complicated look. After all, he had interacted with Jack before, but he did not care much for Jack at all at that moment.

He had thought that Jack was merely someone at the intermediate stage of the innate level who was very well-connected. However, Jack had proven how much of a joke his thoughts had been.

Jack helplessly sighed. Since his identity had been exposed, there was no reason for him to keep up with the disguise. He tossed away the mask on his face and revealed himself to the other thirteen people present

Zamian retreated further back in fear. He had a very personal history with Jack. Back then, he had followed the masked man in attacking Jack and the others. At the time, he had been incredibly rude, always targeting Jack.

Later on, Jack had shown that his skills were on par with the masked man, but Zamian felt that it made no sense. Jack had clearly only been slightly above him when they had a duel before. Jack was definitely not at that level where he was capable of killing him.

It was as if Jack had taken some crazy medicine during the recent period of time, dramatically increasing Jack's skills. Even though Zamian was doubtful, they still had to be careful facing all the skills he had displayed.

Rufus coldly snorted, his face full of hatred. "Let's go!"

He spat out those words, but it had no room for disobedience. When Zamian heard that, he shot an unwilling look at Rufus. However, Rufus did not care what Zamian thought at all, spitting as he headed toward the North-East direction.

The other Corpse Pavilion disciples were reluctant, but they knew they were no match for Jack when Rufus had already lost. With Rufus retreating, there was no point for them to stay on any longer.

They would instead be killed by Jack. As they looked at each other, they pushed down their reluctance and left with Rufus.

Even the girl was full of anger, following the rest of them.

"Are you leaving just like that?" Samson's voice was suddenly heard. He felt like everything was advancing too quickly, and he could not really process it. Rufus, who had been so imperious before, was actually retreating so quickly. There did not seem to be any signs of them slowing down too, leaving without a word.

It did not seem like something the Corpse Pavilion would do, and Hayden was a bit speechless as he whispered to Samson, "What else can he do but leave? If we really fought, he wouldn't be able to last long with his injury. When that happens, they would all die. If they don't leave quickly, they would not be able to later on if Jack decides to kill them."

Samson finally accepted it after hearing that explanation. He thought for a moment before nodding earnestly, "You're right, if Jack is their opponent, then the situation is completely different. If they did not leave, Jack would definitely not let them off considering how close we are."

Looking at Rufus and the others slowly disappearing in the distance, there was a sudden silence among those who remained.

They looked at Jack with a complicated and respectful look. Samson lightly coughed, "Hello Jack, I can't believe it's really you!"

Isaiah's lips froze. In truth, he should have been the one to say that, but he had never been one to suck up to another. He had complicated feelings and said nothing.

Chapter 2305

Jack glanced at everyone before he sighed lightly, "The corpse flower is yours, keep it quick."

Byron's face stiffened, finally resolving his worries. He had thought that Jack would seize the corpse flower. After all, the corpse flower was an eighthgrade spirited grass. It was very valuable.

However, Jack did not seem to care about the corpse flower at all. Byron immediately kept the flower in the jade box they had prepared, keeping it in his storage ring.

Jack did not want to say too much to them and be delayed. "Since my identity has been exposed, we should each go our own ways. My identity will end up putting you guys in danger."

After Jack finished saying that, he turned around to leave. However, Samson did not seem willing to part with Jack. Jack said that his presence would put them in danger, but Samson did not think so at all.

He felt that having Jack around was actually much safer. Jack was someone who stood at the top three among them all in skill. Jack was definitely someone incredibly strong to have around. Samson resolved to hold on tightly to Jack.

"Jack, I disagree with you! You won't bring us danger but would actually keep us safe. However, if you think we're a burden, we naturally wouldn't dare to bother you!"

After saying that, he hurriedly turned to look at Isaiah and said, "Isaiah, don't you think so?" After all, Isaiah was from the same clan as Jack.

After saying that, he frantically shot Isaiah a look. Isaiah helplessly pursed his lips, knowing what Samson wanted

He knew what Jack meant to them as well. No matter how reluctant he was to suck up, he still had to lower his head, "That's right. If Jack doesn't think we'd be a burden..."

Jack suddenly interrupted him, "Since you want to follow me so much, then let's go. However, let me make things clear, any of the treasures from the fiends I kill will be mine."

Isaiah and the others nodded obediently. However, Byron mentioned that he would not follow the rest since he knew that what he could do was limited and that Jack would definitely continue advancing deeper.

The closer to the volcano they got, the stronger the fiends were. With his strength, he would not be able to deal with them, so staying outside to kill a few fiends was far better.

He was not that ambitious, knowing the limits of his

Kills. After the two sides split up, Jack was still very silent, but Samson was even rowdier than before.

"Jack, you're so amazing! If you were in my clan, you'd definitely rank first! Even if you were in the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, you'd probably be in the first place amongst the chosen disciples too!"

If those words fell on anyone else, they would be pure flattery, but Jack was a worthy recipient. He did have those skills. After all, he was someone equal in skills to the top disciple of the Corpse Pavilion. Yet, Jack did not feel like the praise was accurate,

"I should still be a bit behind the top disciple of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion."

Chapter 2306

It was obvious that Jack was not the only one who smelled blood. The others had a concerned look on their face as they started to look all around. The smell of blood was too obvious, there had been a slaughter nearby

It was definitely not just one or two people who had died because the smell would not have been so strong

Samson's expression was dark as he said, "There are no corpses nearby, but the smell of blood is still so dense. We should prepare for the worst."

Samson's judgment was the same as the others. When everyone smelled blood, their expressions had collectively darkened. Isaiah looked over at Jack, wanting to say something, but swallowed back his words after some thought.

Hayden looked at Isaiah's conflicted expression and sighed in exasperation. Since Isaiah was not willing to say it, he would

Hayden walked toward the left of Jack, "Jack, you make the decision. Are we going to look for the source of the smell?"

Jack nodded, saying just one word, "Search!"

The few of them split up, using their senses to check their surroundings. They split into the four cardinal directions, and after a while, there was some movement toward the East, where Isaiah had gone.

"Everyone, come quickly, something big happened!"

Hearing Isaiah's summons, the others stopped in their tracks and rushed toward the East. The further they went in that direction, the thicker the scent of blood was.

After moving past a hill, Jack immediately saw a row of corpses behind it. Quickly counting them, there were seven of them.

From their attire, they could tell that the seven corpses belonged to various clans from the north.

When they saw the scene, Jack and the others hurried up their pace, quickly arriving next to Isaiah. Jack let out a low cry, "Riv!"

He hurried over to Riv's corpse. Riv at that moment had no trace of his usual carefree demeanor. His face was pale, and his chest was no longer breathing.

Jack touched Riv's arm. It was cold as ice. Riv had already died for several hours. Jack had an incredibly ugly expression on his face.

He had a very good impression of Riv. Riv had spoken up for him many times in the past. As fellow disciples from the same clan, Riv was much closer to him than most.

He had thought that he would be able to see Riv's carefree smile again. Never did he expect that the next time they meet, Riv would have turned into a corpse devoid of warmth.

Riv's eyes were shut tightly, and his face was devoid of emotion. The blood on his lips had already dried. For some reason, even though Riv was already a corpse, Jack could sense a sliver of unwillingness and hate in his expressionlessness.

Jack took a deep breath, his right arm slightly trembling. Isaiah's expression was just as bad as he knelt next to Riv.

Just like Jack, Isaiah had a good relationship with Riv. Now that Riv had died, his mood was just as heavy as Jack.

At that moment, another shout was heard, "Jackson Jones!"

Haydon rushed over to another corpse as he shouted out a name, sobbing. He knelt next to Jackson's corpse, reaching out as he shook it, trying to wake Jackson up.

Chapter 2307

Unfortunately, Jackson would never be able to respond to Hayden again. Of the seven corpses haphazardly thrown around, two of them were from the Dual Sovereign Pavilion, another two were from the Muddled Origin Clan, and the remaining three were from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion.

Samson found a disciple from the Muddled Origin Clan that he was close to and knelt down looking at him in pain. Isaiah's voice was slightly hoarse as he said, "What is this? Who killed them? Was it a fiend or a person?!"

Jack let out a sigh, his gaze shifting to Riv's chest. There was a hole the size of a fist. There was no blood around the wound, but it was all black.

It seemed like a burnt wound. Using his senses, he could feel that it carried a sliver of electricity.

Jack shot his gaze over at the other corpses. As he checked on the others, he noticed that they had injuries that had been caused by weapons. It was obvious that fiends had definitely not been the culprits, they were killed by humans.

Arriving next to Riv's corpse again, Jack's expression was already extremely dark. His eyes had a very strange look to them.

Isaiah's mouth trembled, "Why did they have to kill all of them? Is it like last time, is it all for the sake of treasures that fiends turned into?"

Jack said resolutely, "No!"

Those three words had been firm, suddenly drawing the attention of the other three onto Jack. Samson inhaled as he asked doubtfully, "Jack, why are you s o sure?"

Jack took a deep breath, not answering Samson's question. Instead, he checked Riv's body, flipping Riv's corpse over.

After doing all that, he turned around to look at the others, "Other than a piercing wound, there are no other injuries on Riv's body. Go look at the other corpses, see if they're like that as well."

The other three nodded, not really understanding. Even though they were curious as to what Jack was doing, they did not question it and did everything as Jack instructed.

After a moment, they had completely checked on all seven of the corpses. Hayden said, "There doesn't seem to be any extra wounds on Jackson's body. Just like Riv, there's only a piercing wound on the chest."

Jack nodded, "Then my guess should be right."

Saying that made the others even more curious. Before they could ask anything, Jack asked again, "You should know those from your own sect the best. Tell me about their skills, let's see who's the strongest."

All of them nodded and gave a simple brief on the respective strengths of the seven before they arranged them.

They were surprised to notice that Jackson was the strongest, and the second was Riv. Based on what Isaiah said, Riv definitely had the skill to be a chosen disciple.

It was just that he had been secluded for a while and never had the chance to challenge any chosen disciples.

The two strongest had the exact same wounds, while the other five were littered with differing wounds as if they had suffered many different attacks.

Jack said in a heavy tone, "It has to be those Southern clans who did this. After all, it's not just one clan from the North that died.

The seven of them must have formed an alliance between northern clans as they advanced, killing fiends together."

Chapter 2308

The rest of them nodded, very much agreeing with what Jack said. Jack slowly stood up from the ground before continuing, "There's seven of them in total. Even if they aren't the strongest, the seven of them together won't be weak. Yet, they still ended up like this, and the opponents killed them just the same.

"Just look at Jackson and Riv's wounds, they were definitely killed in one swift strike, leaving no room for them to counterattack.

"Someone who could do something like that is an expert! Since it's an expert, he won't be unknown. Just like you guessed earlier, the reason the conflict started was possibly over a treasure left behind by a fiend.

"Since it's an expert that's probably well known, the seven of them would have known this person who killed them. If they did, knowing the difference in skill, they would probably not have acted rashly."

With Jack's explanation, the other three started to understand as well. To be able to kill them in one strike, the opponent would not have been any regular disciple. He would definitely be a chosen disciple that was highly rated.

Someone at that level would have been recognized by at least one of the seven. If they managed to recognize the person, they would have known how strong he was as well, just like Rufus from before.

If they had not appeared, and if Jack had not lent a hand at the last moment, Byron would have been forced to retreat, no matter how much he did not want to.

The corpse flower could be given, their lives were more important in the end. The seven who died were no idiots. If they knew their opponents were strong, what would have been the point of fighting head-on?

However, they did not retreat and were instead killed. The opponent had even picked out the two strongest among them, killing them in one blow, leaving them with no room to fight back!

Jack had a furious look on his face, killing intent showing through. "This is definitely some scheme! They did not care for some treasure, nor did they want anything else!

"They just wanted to kill. It was all to kill this group. That's why the kills were so clean, there were no other possible results!"

Jack's tone was incredibly heavy as he said all that.

"That's too far!" Samson stood up angrily, his hands trembling slightly.

"It has to be those pieces of trash from the Corpse Pavilion. Are they crazy? Why are they setting out to kill?! What do they stand to gain from killing those people? Nothing had been done to provoke them, why did they do that!"

Hayden and Isaiah looked over at Jack again, hoping to get an answer from Jack. Jack sighed, his eyes sweeping over the corpses on the ground before he said, "They were not just killing people for the sake of fit. They definitely had a goal. As for what the goal is? There's nothing to be gained from killing them. I'm not very sure myself, I only have a vague guess..."

Jack did not continue after that, and Hayden said hatefully, "Maybe the treasure these seven obtained after killing the fiend was something incredibly valuable. Those people found out and decided to do something."

Jack shook his head, disagreeing with Hayden, "I doubt it. In truth, we've only walked about 10 kilometers even after walking for so long. Compared to the two hundred kilometers we have to walk, we're still on the outskirts.

"The fiends killed here can't possibly be all that valuable. At the most, they're some spiritual medicines or glasses. Only when you get closer to Netherworld Mountain will killing fiends get you treasures that are that valuable.

“Those people can’t kill these seven because of them. Even if they did, the kills would not have been so coordinated.”

Chapter 2309

Then why did it happen!” Samson said tearfully.

Other than Jackson and Riv’s bodies that were not bleeding, the others were practically soaked in blood.

It was because of the dense smell of blood that they found this bloody scene. Hayden looked up and said seriously, “Since it’s not for treasure, and it can’t be because they were just itching for a fight for no reason, then why did they do this? They definitely had a goal, but I really can’t fathom what the goal could be?!”

Jack turned around, looking at Netherworld Mountain, “No matter what it is, we probably won’t be able to figure it out from these seven corpses alone. We have to continue looking, and see if there are any clues elsewhere.”

The three of them nodded, feeling like Jack was right. Jack turned around and looked at Riv’s body with a lot of emotion. Jack really wanted to know who did it.

Could the reason have been himself? No matter what, he would find the killer for Riv, and help Riv have his revenge.

Jack let out a sigh, “Alright, let’s tidy up their corpses for a bit and put them into our storage rings.

“We can’t just leave them in the wilderness. They’ve died in this blood-colored world, and it’s our responsibility to bring them out.”

The others nodded in unison. Everyone kept the bodies from their respective clans. After the bodies were stored, all that was left on the ground was endless blood. Looking at it was utterly disgusting, and it was enough to send a chill across anyone’s heart.

The group said nothing as Jack turned and continued to walk toward the volcano. The rest of them followed behind Jack. After taking two steps forward, Jack said without turning his head around, “The four of us will take turns sending our senses out to check our surroundings. The moment you notice anything strange, voice out immediately.”

Sending their senses out referred to expanding the spiritual power to observe the surroundings. It was not out of arrogance, or the belief that they could handle anything that they did not do it before.

No, it was because it consumed spiritual energy very quickly, and what sustained spiritual energy was their true energy.

Expending true energy to sustain their spiritual energy was something that would put one at an incredible disadvantage if they ended up getting into a fight. It was very easy to fall into danger.

That's why they would never do that normally if there was nothing big happening. However, with how special the situation was, they needed to check if there were any more corpses around them.

Jack suggested that they took turns. One person would do it while the others rested. When one's turn ended, they could rest and replenish the true energy they had just expended while they continued to advance.

It was still filled with the unending color of blood everywhere. There was a blood-colored crescent moon in the sky. The aura of death filled the whole world. Due to how cruel the scene was before, they were all in heavy moods.

Comparatively, Jack's spiritual energy was the strongest. After all, Destroying the Void was a spiritual skill, and one that was very high ranked.

Hence, each time it was Jack's turn, the area would be incredibly large. His senses would clearly cover everything in hundreds of meters.

Chapter 2310

Right at that moment, Hayden, who had been silent throughout, suddenly said, "I remember now!"

The three of them turned around and saw Hayden with a look of realization on his face. He looked up at Jack earnestly and he hurried forward, arriving next to Jack.

"It's Evil Blood Thunder!" Hayden said firmly.

Jack paused for a moment before asking, "What is Evil Blood Thunder?"

Hayden quickly answered, "Evil Blood Thunder is what caused us to feel that sliver of electricity around Jackson and Riv's wounds!"

The electricity remained around their wounds, and there was no blood around them at all. It looked so strange. I felt like it seemed familiar at the time as if I'd seen it somewhere.

"I kept on trying to remember as we walk, and I suddenly did. I once saw a martial skill called Evil Blood Thunder in ancient records. It leaves behind this effect after killing someone!"

After saying that, his face turned serious. He took a few deep breathes, composing himself before he continued, "It's an incredibly cruel technique, but it's highly ranked. It has the abilities of an intermediate stage Earth level technique. Those who train in it need to constantly kill other people to absorb the blood of others!

"Those hit by the technique will have all the blood around their wounds absorbed and digested by Evil Blood Thunder instantly. Due to the lightning properties of the technique, each strike is incredibly explosive.

"Now that I think about it. Their wounds were not the result of being punched, but of an explosion! The control of the technique seems incredibly good. It's obvious that whoever is using this technique has at least entered a proficient level!"

Hearing that, Hayden's expression was incredibly furious as he concluded, "I think that the people who killed our fellow disciples should be the masked man from the Corpse Pavilion!

"Only he has the skills and the talent to practice an intermediate Earth level technique, and even practice it to a proficient level!"

With Hayden's introduction, Jack and the others were clear now. It was just as Jack guessed. Jack narrowed his eyes and said in a low voice, "It looks like my guess was right. If the masks man was the one behind the attack, then it's definitely not for the sake of any treasures, but purely for the sake of killing. He naturally has his goals in doing that, and I have a very ominous guess!"

Hayden said anxiously, “Jack, are you trying to say that he absolutely won’t stop at just killing seven? He’ll even kill the rest until every one of us from the northern clans is dead?!”

Jack nodded, suddenly remembering his past experience. Jack felt like ever since he stepped onto Mount Beasts, he had stepped into a plot that was full of mystery, and the plot was still in place until now.

Or perhaps the plot was just all culminating for this moment? He said, “Everything the Corpse Pavilion did back then, the Thousand Leaves Pavilion should have some knowledge, right?”

“Allowing the disciples of the Corpse Pavilion to enter the Hidden Place for Resources is definitely something the higher-ups from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion planned. However, I don’t think the Thousand Leaves Pavilion is the only one with plans, the Corpse Pavilion has its own as well.

“What happened now is very possibly connected to their plans! Or maybe, the masked man is just doing all this out of spite!”

After saying all that, Jack’s face completely darkened. Isaiah and the others were very worried about the situation, but there was nothing much they could do. After all, no matter in terms of skill or numbers, they were nothing to speak of.

Since the Corpse Pavilion might be relentlessly killing those from the northern clans, then they might be in danger too!

Chapter 2311

Samson said with a look of fear, “Then what do we do? We can’t just stand there and wait for death! We can’t just let them kill us, we have to work together!”

“We need to get all the disciples from the northern clans to work together to fight against them! Treasures or riches are not important at all, our lives are the most important!”

Samson was right, with how the situation was, all those treasures were no longer that attractive to them. Their lives were the most important thing, and ensuring their clans were able to profit as well.

With the Corpse Pavilion crazily attempting to slaughter everyone, if they did not react immediately, all of them would be placed in a lot of danger. They would be at an absolute disadvantage with no way of turning the tables around.

Jack turned to look at the three of them, “Do you three have any way to notify the other disciples from your clans?”

Hayden nodded, “I have an idea! I have a sound transfer array with Graham!”

As he said that, he retrieved a sealing array that was about the size of a palm out of his storage ring. Jack knew what that was.

Arrays like that were incredibly expensive, regular folk would not be able to afford them at all. However, it had its uses at crucial times.

As long as spirit crystals were placed outside of the formation, they could transmit sound through space. They could no longer even afford to think about the cost at that point, and Hayden retrieved a few more spirit crystals, placing them there.

Various seals started to appear, and in two breaths, Hayden said into the array, “Graham! Something bad’s happened! We’re now at...”

Hayden suddenly paused at that. He did not know how he could convey the position he was to Graham. After all, they were not familiar with the area.

Jack frowned before saying, “We’ve advanced about thirty kilometers. With Netherworld Mountain as the landmark, we’re to the west. You can light a signal when you’re here.”

That was the only way they could describe their position. After the voice was sent over, Graham’s voice was sent back after about five breaths time, “I understand, I’ll head there immediately!”

After that, Hayden was a bit more relaxed. He slumped on the floor in exhaustion. As a warrior, he was actually not afraid of death.

He’d seen his fellow disciples being killed by man or beast alike. However, this was different from before, this was manslaughter!

None of them would have survived! Thinking about that, Hayden suddenly felt like someone had their hands around his throat, that he could die at any

Moment.

Just as they were feeling incredibly nervous, Jack suddenly raised his head, looking over a withered tree before he suddenly reacted. The three of them were shocked and immediately ran behind Jack.

Samson trembled as he said, "Jack, did you see something? Is there any danger?"

Jack frowned, "I can feel...something on the branch of that tree!"

Jack walked forward toward the tree. Jack's movement had been too quick. The three of them were still incredibly anxious. Even though they were reluctant, they still followed behind.

Chapter 2312

It was a withered tree with no signs of life left in it. It was about the height of two humans. The tree was so withered that, just by touching the trunk, layers of dried bark would fall off.

Jack ignored the people behind him. He slowly knelt down, staring right at the tree's roots. The three of them looked toward where Jack did and did not notice anything strange.

The roots seemed to be just like any other part of the tree. It was unknown how long it had died. The white skin spoke of the ages past. With Jack not having said anything yet, the other three did not dare to

Make any careless moves.

The three of them merely stared at where Jack was looking. However, no matter how they looked, they could not find anything strange about it. After kneeling down for a long time, Jack slowly stood up.

His eyes had an unusual look to them, "What's the point of doing all this? Is there anywhere special in this place?"

After saying that, he looked up to look at his surroundings. It was still the same endless, bloodcolored world. There did not seem to be anything special there, nothing that would attract Jack's attention.

Isaiah frowned and asked, "What's the point in what? Jack, what did you find?"

Jack furrowed his eyebrows, saying in a plain tone, "Evil Blood Thunder, I felt a sliver of it on the roots of this tree. It's the same electricity I felt on Riv's body."

Jack had carefully investigated Riv's corpse, especially the electricity around his chest. Without that as a reference, Jack would not have so accurately noticed the odd circumstance.

The masked man had merely left a sliver of electricity around that tree, probably only as a mark. That was why Jack expanded his attention, trying to see if there was anything special around them.

However, after looking for a long time, he did not notice anything. It was possible that it really was just a mark. With Jack's words, the three of them sent out their senses at the roots of the tree, and sure enough, they noticed the remnants of Evil Blood Thunder.

Hayden's expression was incredibly dark, "What is it that this piece of trash wants?! He definitely has a goal in mind!"

With their fellow disciples dying in such a cruel manner, Hayden and others were naturally incredibly upset. On top of them, the group of madmen could very possibly attack them as well, causing the group to harbor even more hatred.

They did not have the confidence to beat the masked man. Even though Jack was there, their opponents were working together. With only the four of them, they would definitely not end up in a good state.

Samson paced around nervously. His skills were the weakest, and he was the one most worried about his own future.

"What do we do? I feel like that group isn't just crazy, they are madmen with a plan in their heads. Facing them, we have to be incredibly careful. Otherwise, if we meet them, we're gone!"

Finishing that statement, Samson's face was incredibly terrified. His lips trembled slightly as he looked at Jack with anticipation. Jack knew what Samson was worried about.

There was nothing much Jack could do at that moment either. “Just take it easy for now. We already know that this group will definitely attack if they meet us.

“Then, we just have to retreat immediately the moment we spot traces of them. If we’re far enough from them, they definitely won’t be a threat to us.”

Jack’s words were mostly to comfort Samson’s anxiety, but Samson still looked incredibly panicked.

Chapter 2313

“Then we can never switch off our senses. As long as he notices anything wrong, we should flee immediately, don’t even think about anything else!”

Death was terrifying. It was something all of them did not want, nor were willing to face. Their group was not that prominent among the geniuses gathered in the Hidden Place for Resources, but back within their own clans, they were among the elites.

They were either internal or chosen disciples within their clans. Normal informal disciples or runners, and most of the other internal disciples would never dare to look down on them.

They were always greeted respectfully, and they had their own bright futures to look forward to. Hence, none of them were willing to lose their lives in a place like this.

Isaiah’s whole body was trembling slightly because he was constantly being flooded with the pale face of Riv in his head.

Just half a day ago, Riv had been joking around with the rest of them. He never expected that the next time they met, that carefree and playful top internal disciple would end up as a corpse.

He had died so quickly, in just one hit. He did not even have the chance to fight back. It had been far too cruel.

Isaiah took a few deep breaths to calm himself down. However, his heart was still beating erratically. After a moment, he told Jack, “Jack, there’s definitely a reason he left a mark behind here. There might be something special around here that we haven’t noticed

“It’s because our investigation is just on the surface. Why don’t we investigate in detail so we can try and see what he’s up to.”

Jack nodded, “You’re right, but I feel like the masked man probably did not leave only a single mark behind. We might be able to see similar marks around here.”

Right after he said that an explosive sound was heard. It was as if someone was heading toward them at a fast speed. The four of them jumped back in surprise, and their eyes all moved to the origin of the sound

A handsome man in green robes was rushing toward them, with three others behind him. The man was already less than a hundred and fifty meters away from them. Looking at that, Hayden was incredibly emotional

“Graham is here, he’s finally here. With the two of you, I probably won’t have to die anymore...”

Seeing Graham had put Hayden thoroughly at ease. Jack raised his eyebrow, his mind thinking back to the sound transfer array that Hayden had taken out earlier

The array was something incredibly expensive. Normally, regular disciples could not possibly own them. Even if Hayden was one of the top internal disciples in the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, he still did not have the money to buy such a thing.

That meant that the array must have been given by someone else. The uniqueness of the array meant that just buying one was useless, they would have needed two for it to be used.

Thinking about that, Jack turned and looked at Hayden meaningfully. Before, Jack thought that Hayden had a bit of a rotten mouth, but was just one of the stronger disciples in the Thousand Leaves Pavilion.

There had been nothing particularly noteworthy about Hayden, but now it seemed like he had underestimated the guy.

As he thought about it, Graham and Benjamin landed in front of them. When Graham saw Jack, his eyes narrowed a little, obviously surprised.

However, he had never been a particularly expressive person, so he resisted his surprise. The people behind him obviously did not have Graham's level of control.

The moment they saw Jack, they all widened their eyes. Their faces were full of questions. Graham first nodded slightly at Hayden before he walked forward to them, saluting Jack.

"Jack, I can't believe I'm meeting you here. I'd have thought that you'd already have been at least twice as far inside, killing countless fiends."

The words sounded respectful, but Jack paid no mind to it at all. He felt amused that Graham was definitely not as upright and straight as he wanted to seem. It would seem like Graham was a schemer as well, and he would need to be careful interacting with Graham.

Jack merely nodded slightly, shooting Hayden a look. Hayden immediately understood what Jack wanted, and did not hesitate to reveal everything they had discovered.

Graham had a dark look on his face. Once Hayden finished, Graham said seriously, "Actually, I noticed a few corpses on the way here as well. All of those corpses belonged to the northern clans. I had wondered if it had been the work of fiends or maybe fighting over the treasure.

"Now, it doesn't seem to be the case. It looks like someone has already decided that all of us need to die here."

The last words had been practically forced out of Graham's mouth through clenched teeth. Benjamin did not look to be in a good state as well.

He stepped forward and said, "What should we do?! I never expected that the Corpse Pavilion would be so ruthless to want to kill us all off! None of us expected something like this from the start, and we gave them a chance to seize the initiative. Who knows how many have died."

Benjamin was right. Even though they've only noticed a dozen or so corpses thus far, no one could guarantee that was the extent of it. It was possible that, with the masked man at the helm, the Corpse Pavilion had already started slaughtering all of the northern clan disciples.

The eight that were present all had ugly looks on their faces. If the Corpse Pavilion really gained the upper hand, then the masked man would definitely surround all those who remained at the end.

Even though Graham, Benjamin, and Jack were all extraordinary, there was still no way for them to fight against those sorts of numbers. If it turned into a numbers game, then they would be helpless.

If that happened, they would be forced to run, leaving behind the weaker disciples. Even if they survived, they would not know what to say when they returned to their clans.

They were already at the brink of despair when they suddenly heard frantic footsteps in the distance. The eight of them looked toward the noise.

They saw a man in ragged clothing limping toward them, staggering as he moved. When the man noticed Jack and the others, he was incredibly emotional

Even though his leg was injured, he still quickened up the pace. Jack furrowed his eyebrows, feeling like the silhouette looked incredibly familiar. He could not stop himself from walking forward for a better look.

When he saw who he was, his heart stopped, and he hurriedly ran forward.

When the man saw Jack and the others, it was like he had found his last hope! He ran quickly and urgently, and his left foot ended up tripping over his right, sending him tumbling to the ground.

Right before he fell on the ground, someone reached out their hands, holding him securely and pulling him up slowly.

Chapter 2315

Jack had a trace of uncertainty in his voice, "Nelson!"

At that moment, Nelson was in an incredibly bad state. His clothes had all been stained with blood, his body ripped all over by some unknown weapon. He looked to be in a worse state than some beggar by the side of the road. He had lost all trace of his usual noble demeanor.

Nelson tightly clenched Jack's arm, his lips trembled slightly, "Jack! I finally found you!"

At that moment, the rest of them had caught up. When Isaiah saw that it was the chosen disciple, Nelson, he widened his mouth in surprise, not daring to believe what he was seeing.

He immediately knelt down, holding Nelson with both hands, "What happened?! How are you so injured?!"

Jack did a simple check of Nelson's injuries. A third of his Vessels were already broken, and he had countless wounds, big and small. There were even two broken bones. The fact that Nelson had managed to reach this place was already a testament to his will.

Nelson no longer had the energy to respond to Isaiah's questions. Jack knew very well how much Nelson was suffering at that moment.

He looked up at Isaiah, "Do you have recovery medication, I..."

Jack had a very troubled expression on his face hearing Nelson. Isaiah immediately knew what Jack was thinking when he saw the expression and did not dwell on the problem.

Reaching into his storage ring, he took out two recovery pills, stuffing them into Nelson's mouth. Jack was already an elder disciple and was in a much higher position than a regular disciple.

However, Isaiah knew that Jack had only been an elder disciple for a few days, there was no way for him to have accumulated any wealth. Hence, he could not have had any recovery pills, which was why Jack was forced to look at him.

After taking the pills, Nelson's expression calmed down a bit. Jack and Isaiah helped Nelson take a seat, and Nelson started to shut his eyes to meditate and recover. After two hours, Nelson's injuries started to stabilize.

Even though he was still heavily injured, he had cleared his mind enough to start answering questions. Graham and the others moved over, asking a few questions about Nelson's injuries before anxiously asking him what happened.

Nelson frowned. "Ever since I left the starting spot, I had planned on killing a few fiends and possibly obtaining some good treasures. On the way, I met a few fellow disciples and formed a small alliance.

“The small alliance consisted of five of us, three from the Dual Sovereign Pavilion and two from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion.”

For some reason, Nelson had a strange look on his face when he mentioned the alliance. Even if most of them had noticed, none of them interrupted him.

Nelson continued, “The five of us advanced together, killing fiends. The journey had been filled with surprises but had not been particularly dangerous. Yet, two hours ago, we suddenly encountered a large group of disciples from the Corpse Pavilion!”

Nelson’s hands trembled as he recall the scene. He could not hold back his fear and anger. It looked like he had witnessed slaughter before his own eyes.

“I had no idea how many disciples the masked man had with him. However, I knew that there would be no way for the five of us to stand up to so many of them.

“Furthermore, with the masked man at the helm, they could probably easily accomplish anything they wanted to! So, the five of us avoided looking for any trouble with them.

“He did not know what the masked man was bringing so many fellow disciples around for. So, we got curious...”

Chapter 2316

Nelson’s lips curved into a bitter smile as he spoke. It was as if he was mocking himself as well as the people who had discussed it back then.

“I had thought that as long as he didn’t provoke them, and as long as he tried to stay out of their way, we wouldn’t be in any danger. No one would’ve ever expected that they’d suddenly stop advancing when they noticed us, and rush right at us instead.

“The five of us fled the moment we realized something was wrong. However, we were too slow, and they eventually caught onto us. Not even bothering to listen to us, about our identity or where we’re from, the first thing they did was attack us with their weapons!”

Nelson’s whole body trembled, his eyes growing bloodshot as flashbacks of what had happened ran through his mind. He felt completely broken.

He gulped and continued, “How could we have stood up against them? I looked on as my fellow disciple fell right before me. At that moment, all I could think of was fleeing!

“Thankfully, the elder gave me an offensive talisman before we left. The attack from the item was incredibly strong after it was activated, and it blew a hole in the group. I...took that opportunity to escape.

The tears that pooled in Nelson’s eyes finally fell at that moment, and they dripped onto his clothes. Everyone exchanged looks, noticing how grave the issue was.

It was just like they had anticipated, but it also meant that the situation was already at its worst.

Isaiah painfully said, “So you’re the only one who survived?”

In truth, Isaiah had merely been lamenting the situation. With what had happened, Nelson would have been the only survivor, yet...

Nelson’s expression suddenly changed when Isaiah questioned him, as if there was another twist.

His demeanor had garnered everyone’s attention. Those who were not familiar with Nelson could not formulate words at that moment, but Isaiah had known Nelson for many years. With how strange Nelson’s expression was, he asked, “Did something else happen? Has someone else survived?”

Nelson had not planned on speaking about that. After all, it was not just those from the Dual Sovereign Pavilion that were gathered there. However, if he did not say it, it could very well bring them all harm.

With that, Nelson brought himself to confess,” Someone else had survived, yes. Not only did he survive, but he’s not injured at all. He’s in a very good state.”

Nelson’s anger was evident in the way he spoke, and the individuals around him looked on in curiosity. Nelson let out a long sigh as he rubbed his temples.

“There were three of us from the Dual Sovereign Pavilion,” added Nelson, nearly growling. “Other than me and the disciple who died, there was also Griffin Olsen!”

Normally, even though Nelson did not truly approve of how Griffin acted, he regarded Griffin as a junior. However, the situation was completely different this time.

Nelson's wrath was unbridled at this point when he spat out his response, and it was too obvious to ignore.

Jack suddenly smirked. "Did Griffin submit himself to Corpse Pavilion before you even started fighting?"

"He sucked up to the masked man and constantly bad -mouthed me. Not only did he manage to survive, but he's now a part of the Corpse Pavilion."

Nelson's face stiffened as he gazed at Jack regretfully. Even though he did not want to admit it, the truth was still the truth, and there was no way for him to change it. He forced himself to nod.

"It's as you said. Back then, we were incredibly furious, but that didn't help at all. He had already made up his mind and will probably never return to the Dual Sovereign Pavilion."

Chapter 2317

Jack snorted, not thinking much about it. "I think he'd still be able to return. As long as all of us die here, no one will be able to prove what he did. He'd naturally be able to go back safely and might even receive a bountiful reward."

The others visibly soured at this. Even though it was hard for them to criticize the situation, with Griffin's status as well as the others from the Dual Sovereign Pavilion present, they still abhorred Griffin's actions silently.

Even scumbags would detest those who only knew how to suck up to others when challenges arose.

Isaiah gritted his teeth as he said, "He's gone too far. What he's done before is one thing, but with what he did this time--"

"That's enough," interjected Jack as he raised his hand, "it's not worth us wasting time talking about him at this point."

Jack then slowly stood up and turned to look at Graham. "Do you have any way of communicating with the rest?"

“With them gathering up their forces against us, our best course of action is to gather every last one of our manpower.”

Graham nodded grimly, hurriedly taking out the sound-transfer array and contacting everyone else. The Dual Sovereign Pavilion also had a way of sharing its location, but compared to the sound transfer array, it was far simpler.

Nonetheless, it was still quite useful. After quickly contacting everyone in 15 minutes, they had notified everyone they could.

After about two hours, all the surviving northern clan disciples had been gathered. There were even those who had forced themselves to come over, despite varying injuries.

After they did a headcount, they noticed that there were only 25 of them left. When they entered the Hidden Place for Resources, the northern clan had brought in a total of 90 disciples. The losses were already more than two-thirds.

It was a massive loss. Furthermore, it was not guaranteed that all 25 of them would make it out alive. The situation was already in an incredibly serious state.

After everyone had gathered, the unsettling feeling had been somewhat quelled. Graham was busy consoling the other disciples, while Jack had picked a secluded spot and brought Nelson over as well.

He sat down next to Nelson and tended to Nelson’s wounds, not saying a single word.

Nelson looked at Jack helplessly. “Tell me: will we survive?”

As he said that, he had an aura of despair and hopelessness about him. Jack could understand how he felt after stabilizing the injuries, Jack told Nelson about Riv’s death. Nelson and Riv had been quite close, and when Nelson finally registered the news of his demise, his morale plunged into an all-new low.

Jack shook his head. “There’s no point thinking about all this now; you better focus on recovering.”

At that moment, Graham’s voice could be heard from a distance, “Come, Jack. Let’s discuss our next course of action.”

Jack sighed in exasperation. In truth, he did not want to discuss anything with Graham. He kept feeling like even though the guy seemed like a perfect gentleman on the surface, he was, in truth, not that righteous.

Unfortunately, at that moment, they were forced to work together, and staying as a group was the most sound choice. With that in mind, he was forced to walk toward Graham.

Graham anxiously said, "Jack, what do you think his goal is?"

Jack let out a small chuckle. "That's not hard to guess."

Chapter 2318

Graham frowned as he looked at Jack earnestly. Jack gazed into the distance, looking at the endless color of blood on the horizon. He fell deep in thought, and after a good while, he finally opened his mouth and continued, "He wants to kill us. There are, after all, benefits to achieving just that. After all, we're his competitors, and only by killing us will he easily obtain those rewards.

"If we successfully arrive at the foot of Netherworld Mountain and get sent back to the Divine Void Slope, there will be another battle after that. If it had been before, he would probably have been incredibly confident in beating the both of us. However, right now... He probably doesn't have that confidence anymore."

Graham nodded in agreement; Jack was right. Killing them would save him a lot of trouble.

Jack smiled coldly before he added, "He's got a grudge against me from the start, too. Furthermore, he definitely has another goal in entering the Hidden Place for Resources. In clearing us, his obstacles, it'll be much easier for him to do anything."

Graham's face was sullen as he said, "So that's why he wants to kill us all- not wanting anyone to survive?"

Jack nodded, and Graham was close to losing control of his composure. Just thinking about the masked man, who always acted high and mighty, and thinking about the incredibly disadvantageous position they were in made him incredibly anxious.

He looked up at Jack. "I think something's wrong,"

Jack raised a brow, motioning for Graham to continue, Graham lowered his voice as he said, "You're right. His greatest wish at the moment is to clear obstacles, and that's us, so he can arrive at Netherworld Mountain alone, making him the only one who passed

"He doesn't have the confidence that he can kill the two of us in one blow, so he needed to plot and scheme, clearing everyone around us and leaving us alone. Then, he'd use numbers to eliminate us."

Saying that, he paused, and Jack nodded. "That's probably what he's planning, so which part of it do you think is wrong?"

Jack seemed to have thought of something after his own question, and he smirked. "You're saying that since he's trying to eliminate everyone who can help the two of us, then no traces would be left, but we found the corpses."

Graham nodded. That was indeed what he was thinking, and it was far too much of a strange point.

If the masked man truly did plan on eliminating everyone else, leaving only both him and Jack for last, then he would not have let them realize something was strange.

However, after he killed the northern clan disciples, he allowed the others to run amok, not bothering to clear any traces and displayed too blatantly. It was clear he did not care if Graham and the others could see it.

"That's a hefty question. Before we can clear up this point, I feel like your earlier guess has no ground to stand on."

Graham was right, and Jack agreed with what he said as well. Jack smiled, not answering Graham's question and, instead, mentioned the hidden traces of electricity on the withered tree.

Graham said in confusion, "He left traces of the Evil Blood Thunder as a mark, and you think that there's definitely more than just one? What does this have to do with your earlier suspicions?"

Jack looked up and said earnestly, "The two definitely have something to do with each other. You were definitely right before. Since he wanted to kill off everyone around us and finish us off in the end, then he wouldn't have let us notice it.

“However, the fact of the matter is that he seems to be deliberately letting us notice it. He wanted to display everything in front of us, so there’s definitely something behind it. Whatever they are, his goals are all for us to see.”

Chapter 2319

“There are so many amazing things on the Divine Void Slope, so who wouldn’t want them? Of course he wants them all for himself, and if that’s the case, then he first needs to get rid of all of us!”

Graham could still not fully accept everything that was said, and doubt clouded his eyes.

Jack smiled lightly as he walked forward, placing a hand on Graham’s shoulder. “Since his goal is obvious, then everything he’s done is to contribute toward that goal. Him leaving the mark behind is also for that goal.

“Even though he still doesn’t know the full details, as long as we obtain even more evidence, the answer will naturally reveal itself.”

Graham nodded, not understanding it fully. The two of them suddenly fell silent, and neither of them said anything. They were both deep in their own thoughts, but Jack seemed to have a calmer expression, while Graham’s was much darker.

He was incredibly worried about what would happen next. After a long time, Graham finally urged, “Then, what should we do after this?”

Jack walked two steps forward. “Search.”

“Search for what?”

“Search for the other marks the masked man left behind. Once we find enough of them, we’ll be able to find out. Furthermore, you have to remember that our goal this time isn’t revenge but passing the stage instead.”

Graham nodded, feeling that Jack’s words were reasonable.

Jack continued, “Let’s stop getting tangled up here, then. If we want to find answers, we have to first find the other marks. After that, we continue advancing; we can’t just hand a free pass to the masked man.”

“Even though he’ll threaten our safety, we’ve already prepared ourselves, and we have enough skills as well. All these problems can be solved.”

Jack’s last few words were said in a very firm manner, causing Graham to be taken aback. This disciple from the Dual Sovereign Pavilion named Jack never failed to surprise Graham, time after time.

He never expected that a disciple from a regular third -grade clan could advance to where Jack was. The fact was that his skill was on par with Graham’s. He was also strategic, and he was incredibly mature in how he spoke and acted.

Jack looked at Graham and noticed that the latter was already looking at him differently. He could not help but snort mentally, but he did not dwell on the matter.

He decided to change the topic instead, saying, “We don’t have any time to waste. Since we’re sure of what we have to do next, we should hurry up and make our arrangements.”

Those words served as a reminder to Graham, and Graham immediately jumped into action, hurriedly walking toward the others. He had just taken two steps when Jack’s voice was heard behind him, “Remember: we can’t afford to split up. No matter where we go, we have to go together. Otherwise, we’d just be giving them a chance.”

Graham nodded without turning his head around. He arrived at where everyone was gathered before he loudly arranged everything. He had everyone stand apart, taking turns sending their senses out, and rotating every two hours.

Chapter 2320

Four of them would send out their senses every time. Each in charge of one direction. That way, they preserved their spiritual energy and true energy while they also increased their accuracy. After arranging everything, they decided on a direction to advance.

When everyone advanced, Jack, Graham, and the other stranger combatants were all arranged to stand at the front. They truly felt the power of moving as a group then, and everyone felt a sense of security.

After all, they had lost over two-thirds of their people, and they were already at the stage where everyone was in danger. While the group advanced at a steady pace, Jack once again talked to Graham and Benjamin.

It was not really much of a conversation, however, because Jack's tone had a hint of accusation to it. His dark eyes were focused on Graham to his left.

"Graham, as a top-five chosen disciple in the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, you must have the favor of the elders and leaders. There's something in my heart that I've been mulling over for several days, and I wonder if you can help me clear my doubts."

Even though the words sounded polite, there was an accusatory undertone to it that slightly stunned Graham and Benjamin.

Graham raised an eyebrow. "If it's something I know, I'll tell you. However, if it involves secrets of the clan, then I really can't help you."

The words sounded ambiguous, but Jack did not mind. He smiled lightly as he said, "What is the Thousand Leaves Pavilion planning? Why did they allow the Corpse Pavilion to enter this place? Did the Thousand Leaves Pavilion's internal and external elders feel like the Corpse Pavilion's disciples would be kind enough to not harm us?"

"A big part of what's happening right now is because the Corpse Pavilion was allowed entry. If it was just us northern clans, things wouldn't have escalated to this point regardless of whatever conflict would've taken place."

Jack's words were very meaningful, and it caused Graham and Benjamin to have a change of expression. It truly was a question that could not be overlooked, and Jack was right. If the Corpse Pavilion had not been allowed entry, this catastrophe would not have happened.

They would not have lost so many disciples.

Just thinking about Riv's bloodless face caused Jack to boil in anger. He truly did not understand what the Thousand Leaves Pavilion was trying to do.

At Mount Beasts, the Thousand Leaves Pavilion had noticed the Corpse Pavilion sealing the place up, yet they acted like nothing had happened, ignoring the disciples on Mount Beasts.

It was as if those lives were insignificant to them. Entering the Hidden Place for Resources needed permits, and there were only 180 of them. They did not even have enough to distribute among themselves, but they took out half for the southern clans.

Jack could not understand their actions at all.

Graham let out a long sigh as he answered, albeit rather exasperatedly, “The Pavilion doing this naturally has its own reasons as well as their plans. After all, the elders and disciples from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion aren’t idiots. There’s no way they’re doing all of this for no good reason; they must have a very special goal.”

Hearing all that, Jack could not hold back the mockery in his words as his face darkened. “Do you think such an explanation is enough for everyone? Even though we’ve deliberately toned down our voices and no one else can hear what we’re saying, do you truly think they aren’t mulling the same things internally?”

“So many people have died, and most of them were the elites from the various clans. What sort of plan is worth sacrificing all their lives?”

Chapter 2321

Graham frowned and turned his head away from Jack’s accusatory gaze.

“To be frank, I’ve thought of the same thing, too. Even though I’m a highly ranked chosen disciple, it doesn’t mean I know everything. This is a clan secret, and even with a high position, I’m still just a disciple in the end.”

Jack nodded, admitting that Graham was right.

Benjamin tried to pick up the mood by the side as he said, “Don’t be angry, Jack, and let’s not hold grudges, either. I think that Graham is right. Since the clan did all this, they naturally have their own plans.

“The clan doesn’t want this to happen, either, for so many disciples dying is out of their expectations.”

The way Benjamin had tried to soothe things over was rather tactless, however. Jack was not a simple mind that would allow someone’s few words to change his thoughts.

He smiled lightly as he said, "You two don't have to use those words to try and fend me off; I'm not someone so carefree. If this matter hadn't advanced to this stage, I would never have even asked those questions."

After that, Jack's cold smile deepened. "You say they didn't expect so many to have died. I don't believe that one bit."

"The higher-ups of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion know better than any of us what type of people come from the Corpse Pavilion. They're ruthless and venomous in their methods, and they'd stop at nothing so long as they have something in their sights!"

"Honor and morality are nothing for those people. As long as there's a chance to get rid of us, they'd definitely take it. This is no accident; it's all within their expectations!"

Jack got angrier as he spoke, and his face reddened. "You're right, Graham. You're just a disciple in the end, and there are things you don't know."

"However, I refuse to believe you know nothing at all. Otherwise, with your personality, you wouldn't have entered this place for sure."

The moment he said that, Graham's face stiffened, yet Jack continued, "You can't possibly know everything, but it's also impossible that you know nothing at all. Those elders that are closer to you would've revealed a thing or two."

"I know these are all secrets to you, but with the way things are right now, I'm not even sure if we can survive this place if you still keep your secrets."

Jack's words were not just to increase the sense of danger; he genuinely felt that way. If Graham and the others did not reveal the truth, it was very possible they would be swimming around in the dark, and even more people would die because of those higher-ups.

That was something Jack did not want to see or have happened. Thinking about that, he looked back to Isaiah and Nelson behind him.

Isaiah was helping Nelson walk with one arm, and both of them looked to be in bad shape as well. After all, the Dual Sovereign Pavilion had greatly suffered this time. Other than the traitor, only the three of them were left.

Furthermore, the two of them were not even sure if they themselves could survive, fearing the future to come, resulting in their very-obvious anxious expressions. Jack could understand how they felt, and he did not want anything to happen to these two.

Putting aside everything else, Nelson was quite a good person. Jack really did not want to see a tragedy happen, so he had to pursue the matter to the fullest and dig out the truth.

Chapter 2322

When Jack looked at Graham again, his gaze was stern and fierce.

Graham let out a sigh, feeling incredibly helpless, while Benjamin looked at Jack before looking at Graham.

Unlike Graham, Benjamin was completely in the dark. Even though he wanted to defend Graham and say something, he was, in fact, all too curious as well, so he chose to remain silent.

Graham dwelled in his helplessness for a long time before finally opening his mouth unwillingly. "It's because they want to find something, and that thing is both evil and righteous. It's not something that can be opened with just the power of the northern clans, so that's why they ended up giving the southern clans half of the passes for free."

Jack had guessed correctly after all, and his expression did not lose much of its initial intensity. Graham let out another sigh and knew that Jack did not believe what he had just said at all.

"I know you don't believe what I'm saying right now, but I can assure you that I'm not lying. If you don't believe me, there's nothing I can do anyway."

At that moment, Jack suddenly said, "What's this thing? Where is it? Is it some divine treasure on the Divine Void Slope, or is it somewhere else on the Hidden Place for Resources?"

Graham shook his head. "That, I do not know. I possess the strongest skills, which is why the elders had arranged for me to go retrieve it. When I received all this information, I had thought that way.

“However, no one summoned me even as I waited. I received no arrangements even as I was being sent into the Hidden Place for Resources.”

After saying that, Graham glanced at Benjamin by his side, and Benjamin frantically shook his head. “I don’t know anything. I would’ve never heard of this righteous-yet-evil thing had you not brought it up.”

Graham composed himself, turning his head back.” Truthfully, I don’t know what the elders are planning. I’m just as much in the dark as the rest of you.”

Jack ignored Graham’s explanation and mumbled to himself, “Righteous and evil?”

Graham shot a look at Benjamin. Both of them could see the helplessness in each other’s eyes. Their explanations were all a bit barren, but the truth was that neither of them knew anything.

Even if they had a bit of news, it was all shallow. They never got the most important parts.

At that moment, one of the senses suddenly shouted out, “We’re picking up traces of a battle up ahead!”

When they heard that, they put aside their thoughts and went toward the direction the person was pointing. Holes were everywhere on the ground, and there were also traces of energy from martial skills.

Jack and Graham knelt to investigate the ground, and they could clearly feel traces of fiendish energy. There were also remnants of human weaponry, as well as a few drops of blood on the eastern side.

An intense battle must have taken place at this spot, and they had advanced about 15 kilometers. All 25 of them had not seen or sensed anything other than this battlefield-not even fiends.